Senate File 458 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 458
BY COMMITTEE ON HUMAN
RESOURCES

(SUCCESSOR TO SF 285)

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act relating to the establishment of a psychiatric
- 2 practitioner loan repayment program.
- 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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- Section 1. <u>NEW SECTION</u>. 135.191 Psychiatric practitioner 2 loan repayment program.
- 3 l. For the purposes of this section:
- 4 a. "Psychiatric practitioner" means a psychiatrist licensed
- 5 pursuant to chapter 148, a psychiatric advanced registered
- 6 nurse practitioner as defined in section 125.2 or 229.1, or a
- 7 physician assistant with a certificate of added qualifications
- 8 in mental health or psychiatry or practicing under the
- 9 supervision of a psychiatrist.
- 10 b. "Qualified provider" means a community mental health
- 11 center designated in accordance with chapter 230A, a provider
- 12 designated to serve as the community mental health center by
- 13 the county in which the provider is located, or a health care
- 14 provider that is a nonprofit organization which is exempt from
- 15 federal income taxation pursuant to section 501(c)(3) of the
- 16 Internal Revenue Code serving patients of whom at least forty
- 17 percent are Medicaid program recipients that is located in an
- 18 area that is not a federally designated health professional
- 19 shortage area.
- 20 2. The department shall establish a psychiatric
- 21 practitioner loan repayment program to provide loan repayment
- 22 to psychiatric practitioners who comply with the requirements
- 23 of the program and are employed by qualified providers.
- 3. An applicant for loan repayment under this section shall,
- 25 in accordance with the rules of the department, do all of the
- 26 following:
- 27 a. Complete and file an application, including any
- 28 information required by the department. The applicant shall
- 29 be responsible for the prompt submission of any information
- 30 required by the department.
- 31 b. Complete and return, on a form approved by the
- 32 department, an affidavit of practice verifying that the
- 33 applicant is a psychiatric practitioner employed by a qualified
- 34 provider.
- 35 4. A program agreement shall provide that in order to

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- 1 receive loan repayment under this section, the individual shall
- 2 agree to engage in practice as a psychiatric practitioner with
- 3 a qualified provider for a period of at least four consecutive 4 years.
- 5 5. a. A psychiatric practitioner who meets the requirements
- 6 of this section is eligible for loan repayments for not more
- 7 than four consecutive years.
- 8 b. The annual amount of loan repayment awarded to a
- 9 psychiatric practitioner under this section shall be based on
- 10 the amount of the psychiatric practitioner's outstanding loans
- 11 and shall not exceed twenty-five thousand dollars for each
- 12 completed full-time work year which commences upon employment
- 13 with a qualified provider. For psychiatric practitioners who
- 14 work less than full-time, the loan repayment shall not exceed
- 15 an amount that is prorated according to the number of hours 16 worked.
- 17 c. A psychiatric practitioner receiving loan repayment
- 18 under this section shall file an initial application with the
- 19 department and shall submit information annually as required by
- 20 the department on the basis of which the applicant's continued
- 21 eligibility for the loan repayment program will be evaluated
- 22 and determined.
- 23 6. Moneys appropriated for the program shall be deposited
- 24 in the health care workforce shortage fund created in section
- 25 135.175, and notwithstanding section 135.175, subsection 6,
- 26 paragraph "c", are appropriated to the department specifically
- 27 to be used for the purposes of the program.
- 7. The department shall submit in a report to the general
- 29 assembly by January 1, annually, the number of psychiatric
- 30 practitioners who received loan repayments pursuant to this
- 31 section, the amount paid to each psychiatric practitioner under
- 32 this section, and any other information the department deems
- 33 appropriate.
- 34 8. The department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A
- 35 to administer this section.

- 1 Sec. 2. Section 135.175, subsection 6, paragraph b, Code 2 2017, is amended to read as follows:
- 3 b. State programs that may receive funding from the fund
- 4 and the accounts in the fund, if specifically designated for
- 5 the purpose of drawing down federal funding or if specifically
- 6 created to address health care workforce shortages in the
- 7 state, are the primary care recruitment and retention endeavor
- 8 (PRIMECARRE), the Iowa affiliate of the national rural
- 9 recruitment and retention network, the primary care office
- 10 shortage designation program, the state office of rural
- 11 health, and the Iowa health workforce center, administered
- 12 through the bureau of health care access of the department of
- 13 public health; the area health education centers programs at
- 14 Des Moines university osteopathic medical center and the
- 15 university of Iowa; the Iowa collaborative safety net provider
- 16 network established pursuant to section 135.153; any entity
- 17 identified by the federal government entity through which
- 18 federal funding for a specified health care workforce shortage
- 19 initiative is received; the psychiatric practitioner loan
- 20 repayment program created in section 135.191; and a program
- 21 developed in accordance with the strategic plan developed by
- 22 the department of public health in accordance with sections
- 23 135.163 and 135.164.
- 24 EXPLANATION
- 25 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with 26 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.
- 27 This bill directs the department of public health
- 28 (department) to establish a psychiatric practitioner loan
- 29 repayment program to be administered by the department to
- 30 provide repayment of loans to psychiatric practitioners who
- 31 comply with the requirements of the program and are employed
- 32 by a qualified provider.
- 33 The bill defines "psychiatric practitioner" as a
- 34 psychiatrist, psychiatric advanced registered nurse
- 35 practitioner, or a physician assistant with a certificate

- 1 of added qualifications in mental health or psychiatry or
- 2 practicing under the supervision of a psychiatrist; and
- 3 "qualified provider" as a community mental health center, a
- 4 provider designated to serve as the community mental health
- 5 center by the county in which the provider is located, or
- 6 a 501(c)(3) nonprofit mental health provider that serves
- 7 patients, of whom at least 40 percent are Medicaid program
- 8 recipients that is located in an area that is not a federally
- 9 designated health professional shortage area.
- 10 The bill requires an applicant to complete and file an
- 11 application, including any information required by the
- 12 department, and complete and return on a form approved by
- 13 the department, an affidavit of practice verifying that the
- 14 applicant is a psychiatric practitioner employed by a qualified
- 15 provider.
- 16 The program agreement is to provide that in order to
- 17 receive loan repayment, the individual shall agree to engage
- 18 in practice as a psychiatric practitioner with a qualified
- 19 provider for a period of at least four consecutive years.
- 20 A psychiatric practitioner is eligible for loan repayments
- 21 for not more than four consecutive years. The annual amount
- 22 of the loan repayment awarded shall be based on the amount of
- 23 the psychiatric practitioner's outstanding loans and shall not
- 24 exceed \$25,000 for each completed full-time work year which
- 25 commences upon employment with a qualified provider. For
- 26 psychiatric practitioners who work less than full-time, the
- 27 loan repayment shall not exceed an amount that is prorated
- 28 according to the number of hours worked.
- 29 A psychiatric practitioner receiving loan repayment shall
- 30 file an initial application and shall submit information,
- 31 annually, as required by the department on the basis of which
- 32 the applicant's continued eligibility for the loan repayment
- 33 program will be evaluated and determined.
- The bill provides that moneys appropriated for the program
- 35 shall be deposited in the health care workforce shortage fund

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- 1 and are appropriated to the department specifically to be used
- 2 for the purposes of the program.
- 3 The bill requires the department to submit in a report to
- 4 the general assembly by January 1, annually, the number of
- 5 psychiatric practitioners who received loan repayments, the
- 6 amount paid to each psychiatric practitioner, and any other
- 7 information the department deems appropriate.
- 8 The department is required to adopt rules to administer the 9 bill.

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